

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Rejection of claims 1-4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4 and 11 presently stand rejected as being anticipated by Japan 2002-209828 (JP '828), Japan 2002-28123 (JP '123) or Japan 2002-65570 (JP '570). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that, when the washer tub is fully extracted from the main body, a rear end of an inner rear wall of the washer tub is located in front of a front end of the main body. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose or suggest a washer tub having a rear end of an inner rear wall that is located *in front* of a front end of the main body when the washer tub is fully extracted from the main body. "A claim is anticipated *only if each and every element* as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). "The *identical invention* must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989) (emphasis added). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In each of the cited references, a washer tub is shown in a position extended from a main body. Each of the references shows a rear wall of the washer tub to remain *behind* a front end of the main body. This can be clearly seen in Figs. 1 and 2 of JP '828, Figs. 1, 2, and 6 of JP '570, and Figs. 1, 5, and 8 of JP '123.

Thus, a rear end of an inner rear wall of the washer tub is *not* located in front of a front end of the main body when the washer tub is fully extracted from a main body. Instead, in each of the cited references the rear wall of the washer tub *remains inside* the

main body, *to the rear of* a front end portion of the main body when the washer tub is fully extracted from the main body.

In a dishwasher according to the cited references, even when the washer tub is fully extracted from a main body, the rear section of the washer tub still remains inside main body. For this reason, it is rather difficult to charge and discharge dishware into and from the rear section of the washer tub. To solve the problem in the present invention (with reference to Fig. 11 of the present application), a rear end "A" of an inner wall of the washer tub 32 is located in front of a front end "III" of the main body 31 when the washer tub 32 is fully extracted from the main body 31 (see Fig. 11). In this case, since the top of the entire basket 36 in the washer tub 32 is exposed without blockage, the process of charging and discharging the dishware into and from basket 36 can be carried out easily.

It is further submitted that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a covering member for blocking a gap between the washer tub and the main body when the washer tub is fully extracted from the main body.

In a dishwasher according to the present invention, because the rear wall of the washer tub may extend in front of the front of the main body of the dishwasher, it can be recognized that a gap may be opened between the rear of the washer tub and the front of the main body, especially if the washer tub is heavily loaded to cause the top rear of the washer tub to tip slightly away from the main body. Such a gap may allow for exposure of the interior of the main body, allowing exposure of components contained within the main body. In the present invention, this potential gap is blocked by the covering member.

It is respectfully submitted that, because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a washer tub that has a rear wall extendable to a position in front of the main body, no such gap will exist in the cited reference, and therefore there can be no teaching or suggestion of any such covering member to block such a gap.

It is respectfully submitted that, for at least these reasons, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation set forth in claim 1 of the present

Application No.: 10/667,424
Examiner: F. L. Stinson
Art Unit: 1746

application, and therefore claim 1, and the dependent claims 2-11, are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-11 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176
Phone: (703) 683-0500

Date: January 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Schaefer", written in a cursive style.

JOHN R. SCHAEFER
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 47,921